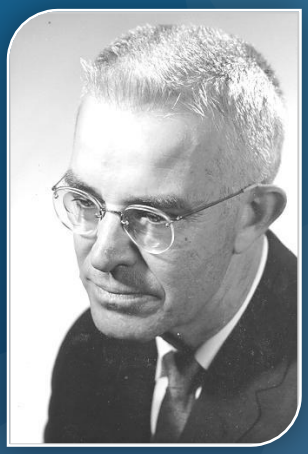
# Oklahoma Chess Monthly

SEPTEMBER 2019

*Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma*

*Dr. Kester Svendsen*

In This Issue:


- Kester Svendsen
- Steve Wharry ConSat Classic
- IM Donaldson Review
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.


*Editor's Note – This week we have a feature story of a player most Oklahoma players have never heard of, but who was a key developer of tournament chess in Oklahoma — and a fascinating person to boot. The first of a two-part feature, continued next month.*

## KESTER SVENDSEN

### In a Class By Himself

*by Tom Braunlich*

As I often say, one of the best things about chess is the interesting people you come across who share an attraction to the game. Oklahoma has had many intriguing chess characters over the years, but perhaps one of the most important and certainly most fascinating of them is also one of the least well known: *Dr. Kester Svendsen*.

Not only was he one of the original founders of the Oklahoma Chess Association in 1946, and a nationally known writer about chess with a regular column in *Chess Life*, but he was a well-loved professor of English at OU, hosted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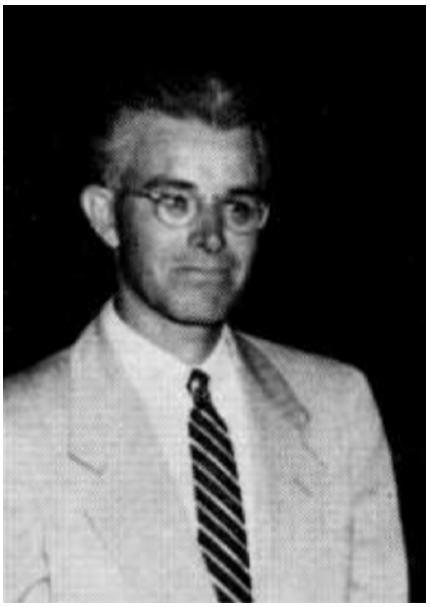
radio and TV shows discussing literature and poetry, wrote a weekly book review column for the Sunday Daily Oklahoman newspaper in OKC, and was an internationally-known scholar. He published a comprehensive book bibliography about chess in English fiction, wrote one of the classic fiction stories about chess — and on top of all that became a class-A rated player even though he didn't learn how to play chess until age 31!

This month we will take a look at his vibrant life, with an emphasis on his chess work, and how it affected chess in this region. Next month we will reprint his enjoyable classic chess story *"Last Round"* in full and discuss it further in some detail.

Svendsen was one of those people whose enthusiasm for certain subjects that interested him would quickly bubble over into ideas and action.

He was born in 1912 in South Carolina, earned his PhD in English at the University of North Carolina and taught at the College of Charleston until in 1940 he moved to Norman to join the University of Oklahoma faculty as an associate professor of English.



Immediately his enthusiasm for literature found an outlet in local media, as he began writing weekly book reviews for the Sunday paper. These led to a weekly local radio show discussing current fiction, and later on to a TV show discussing poetry called "The Poet's Eye" (which in turn was the inspiration for a national TV show on poetry on the fledgling PBS television network).

> Students called his classes,
> "Uncle Kester's Shooting Gallery."

As a scholar, his specialty was the great 17th century poet John Milton, whose epic poem "Paradise Lost" Svendsen considered to be the greatest book in English literature. He devoted his career to the study of Milton, and eventually was to write 20 articles for scholarly magazines about Milton on esoteric subjects, as well as a major book, "Milton and Science" (1956, Cambridge, Harvard University Press), which took him 15 years to complete. It is a deep dive into the philosophy of science and cosmology and the history of religion as they intersect with Milton's poetry that used them as a complex toolbox of imagery.

One of his colleagues, Walt McNeir, said of this book, "In it he supplied hard-won factual knowledge in the history of ideas to the sensitive interpretation of a great poet, so that his readers came to see with the new eyes he gave them. Everything he wrote, everything he taught, combined industry with insight." Most universities still have this book in their libraries as a standard work on Milton, who is one of the most-studied authors in history. Svendsen eventually came to be considered a leading authority on the great poet and was president of the prestigious John Milton Society in 1962, an elite organization devoted to Milton scholarship.

As a professor, Svendsen was often described as "colorful," which is polite way of saying he was a witty no-nonsense "old school" sharp-tongued scholar who had no patience for fools. He demanded a lot from his students, who had to

work hard just to get a "C" in his class, but whom he rewarded with life-changing wisdom in return — all delivered with his thick southern accent.

Bob Dietsche, a writer and former student of Svendsen's, called him his favorite teacher and remembered him this way:

> *"There should have been a sign on the door over his classroom reading: High Scholarship Inside: Enter at Your Own Risk. Kester had a penetrating stare. I called it "the ray." I felt it the first day of class when he announced, "There are two kinds of students who sit in the back row — the very very good and the very very bad." I was sitting in the back row. It was all lecture. In rolling cadences of crisp, precise prose, Svendsen proved beyond a reasonable doubt why Paradise Lost is the greatest epic poem in the English language. I still remember the day he told us about the 'fortunate fall' of Adam and Eve. I sat there in total silence, spellbound, waiting for his next revelation, afraid I might cough. …*
>
> *His grading system went like this: an A in almost any other class on campus would get you a C from Kester. If you got an A from him, it was something to write home about — literally. He liked to show off by reciting Shakespeare's sonnets. He had memorized all of them. … He got a standing ovation on the last day of class. He never even acknowledged it. With one last condescending look at us, he marched down the aisle, out the door, and the applause played on." (Cannon Beach Gazette, Jan 2019)*

Other students called his classes, "Uncle Kester's Shooting Gallery."

McNeir described Svendsen's classroom virtuosity similarly: "From the beginning he was inclined to bluntness, and with maturity came an urbane wit, enjoyment of bawdry, and distrust of those whom Milton calls "Budge doctors of the Stoic fur." …He would choose rather to be plain-spoken than delicate, and would align himself with those who intermix, on diverse occasions, words more than indelicate indeed, and subjects abundantly gross, with matters of greater seriousness."

Svendsen and Chess

You can easily imagine, therefore, the effect such a strong personality had when he turned the fierce focus of his interest to chess!

Someone at OU taught Svendsen how to play chess in 1943. Immediately he became captivated by the game and his enthusiasm soon resulted in a dramatic impact on the sport in this region. He became both a scholar and a promoter of chess.

First, as a scholar, Svendsen combined his knowledge of literature with chess and started compiling a list of English language fiction about chess. This list grew after seven years of research to 553 titles and he eventually published it in 1951 in a book entitled, "*Chess Fiction in English to 1945: A Bibliography" (*Southwestern Journal, Vol. V, #4). In it, he lists titles dating back to the dawn of book printing in English with the 1489 book, "The right plesaunt and goodly historie of the foure sonnes of Aymon" by William Caxton. In its chess scene, two main characters quarrel over a chess game and one kills the other by hitting him over the head with the heavy wooden chessboard. This was not a good idea, as the victim was the nephew of King Charlemagne. (This book, by the way, is where the saying, "A friend in need is a friend indeed" first appears.)

His "Last Round" was called "perhaps the finest chess short story" by GM Andy Soltis (Chess Life, 1993)

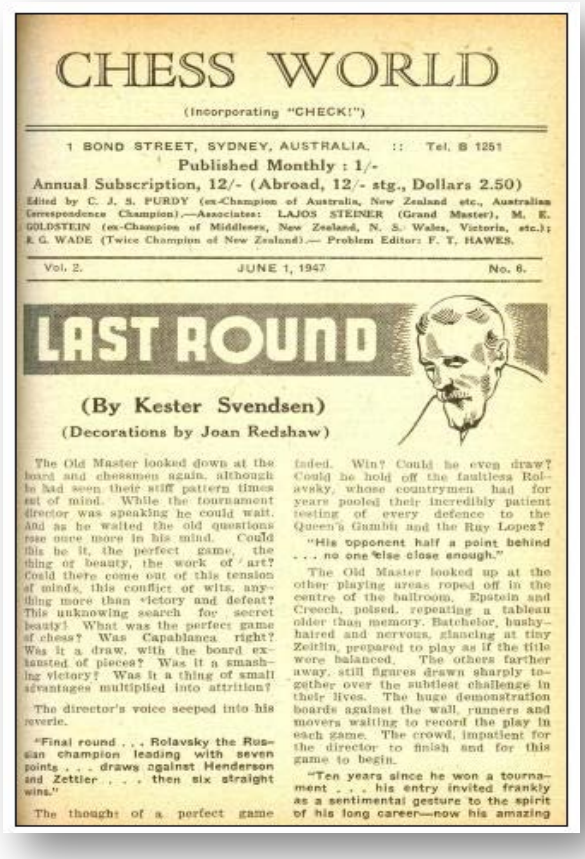
Three of the most prominent Oklahoma chess leaders of the 1940s-50s. Svendsen is in the middle. Left is Dr. Bela Rozsa of Tulsa who was winner of this tournament and a master-level player who went on to win the title a still-standing record of 12 times). Right is A. H. Roddy, an expert-level player and leader of chess clubs in OKC. *(1946, Daily Oklahoman)*

The listings, which include many well-known authors such as A.A. Milne, and Horatio Alger, continue up to the 1940s including Stefan Zweig's classic story "The Royal Game" (1944), and Svendsen's own story, "Last Round" (1947) which we will feature next month in OCM.

OCA

It is with the local promotion of chess that Svendsen had more direct impact on Oklahoma. After the end of World War II (1941-45) the world returned to interest in luxuries like chess and the timing was right for a resurgence of organization in the sport that had been put on hold for so many years. Svendsen was there to be one of the leaders who organized chess in Oklahoma as we know it today.

Having already organized a chess club among the faculty at OU, and arranged for matches with top players in OKC, Svendsen with his propensity for enthusiastic action found the time to become one of the original founders of the Oklahoma Chess Association.



CHESS WORLD

(Incorporating "CHECK!")

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Vol. 2. JUNE 1, 1947 No. 6.

LAST ROUND

(By Kester Svendsen)

(Decorations by Joan Redshaw)

The Old Master looked down at the board and chessmen again, although he had seen their stiff pattern times out of mind. While the tournament director was speaking he could wait. And as he waited the old questions rose once more in his mind. Could this be it, the perfect game, the thing of beauty, the work of art? Could there come out of this tension of minds, this conflict of wits, anything more than victory and defeat? This unknowing search for secret beauty! What was the perfect game of chess? Was Capablanca right? Was it a draw, with the board exhausted of pieces? Was it a smashing victory? Was it a thing of small advantages multiplied into attrition?

The director's voice seeped into his reverie.

"Final round . . . Rolavsky the Russian champion leading with seven points . . . draws against Henderson and Zettler . . . then six straight wins."

The thought of a perfect game faded. Win? Could he even draw? Could he hold off the faultless Rolavsky, whose countrymen had for years pooled their incredibly patient testing of every defence to the Queen's Gambit and the Ruy Lopez?

"His opponent half a point behind . . . no one else close enough."

The Old Master looked up at the other playing areas roped off in the centre of the ballroom. Epstein and Creech, poised, repeating a tableau older than memory. Batchelor, bushy-haired and nervous, glancing at tiny Zeitlin, prepared to play as if the title were balanced. The others farther away, still figures drawn sharply together over the subtlest challenge in their lives. The huge demonstration boards against the wall, runners and movers waiting to record the play in each game. The crowd, impatient for the director to finish and for this game to begin.

"Ten years since he won a tournament . . . his entry invited frankly as a sentimental gesture to the spirit of his long career—now his amazing

Kester Svendsen wrote about the creation of

the OCA and how it came about in a Guest Editorial later printed in *Chess Life* magazine, and it has a familiar ring to it for many chess organizers:

## The Story of OCA's Founding,

*by Kester Svendsen*
*(reprinted from Chess Life, 1947)*

"The revival of organized chess in Oklahoma should encourage average players in small communities to discover how easy it is to promote a local club, to stage inter-city matches, and even to form a state association. When the writer took up the game in 1943 he played with a colleague or two at first and later suggested to a few more that regular meetings be held in one another's homes. Soon some students on the campus became interested and got up a club of their own which was instrumental in bringing George Koltanowski to the university for an exhibition. Visitors to that event from nearby Oklahoma City met the Norman group, and last year a couple of matches were played between the Oklahoma City chess club and the student-faculty group. Shortly after Koltanowski's second exhibition in Tulsa, Norman, and Oklahoma City, several of us corresponded about a state tournament with the result that players from all over the state met during Christmas holidays on the invitation of the OKC chess club and formed the *Oklahoma Chess Association*, the first business of which was to conduct the first annual two-day tournament. Now the three major groups in the state are going stronger than ever, … Officers, a constitution, official letterhead, and affiliation with the USCF will give the state organization prestige and permanence. The chief point of interest in this is that two of the five people most active in promoting the revival are duffers…"

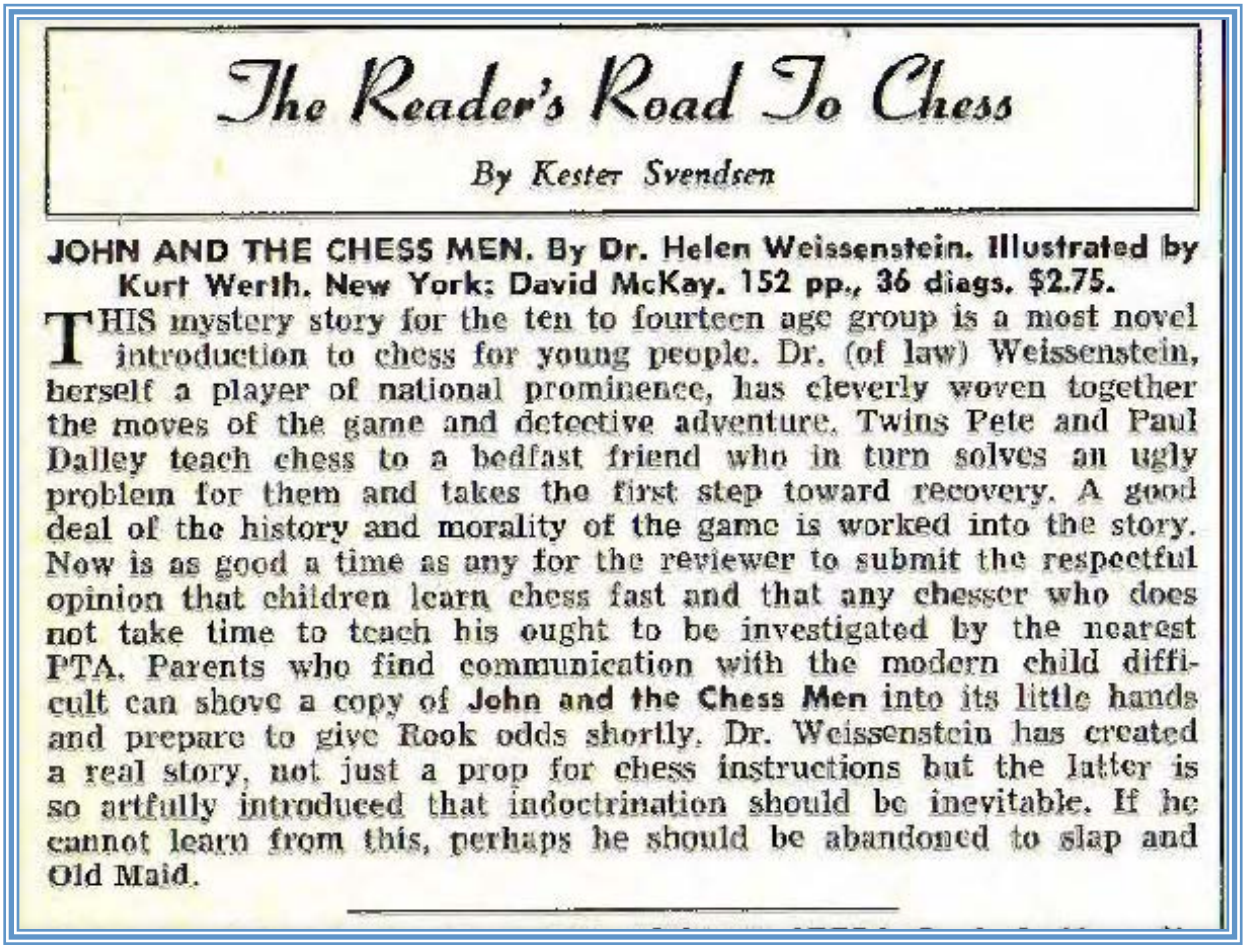
Svendsen was elected by the players at that first meeting to be the first OCA Secretary/Treasurer, and was also tasked with the job of drafting the first "constitution" (bylaws) of the OCA.

If you have ever been involved in any volunteer organizations of this type, you know that the jobs of secretary and treasurer are the hardest, because they demand the most time and tedious work. Kester tackled both of these positions. Working on the Bylaws is also a tough job; Kester did it. The success of any such organization often depends on how good this officer is, and the OCA was blessed to have an energetic scholar such as Svendsen to fill this crucial role and get it off the ground. It is not an exaggeration to say that many lesser volunteers trying to do all this work would likely flop at it, but Svendsen came through with a constitution and helped the OCA lay a solid framework to have in place when more flamboyant leaders like Jerry Spann came on the scene a few years later.

Svendsen also was the OCA's first PR agent. At this 1946 OCA event, Svendsen used his contacts with the Daily Oklahoman to get excellent newspaper pre-event and post-event publicity for the first championship, which included published photos. He continued on for many years as both an OCA officer and its *de facto* "promotion department" getting publicity for OCA events that helped grow the organization and cement its credibility. Within 10 years the OCA was strong enough to host the U.S. Open in Oklahoma City.

'The Reader's Road to Chess'

Starting about 1950, Svendsen's energetic spirit reasoned that since he had been writing book reviews for newspapers for 10 years, he might as well write reviews of chess books as well, and he talked Montgomery Major (the irascible editor of *Chess Life*, the national



# The Reader's Road To Chess

By Kester Svendsen

**JOHN AND THE CHESS MEN. By Dr. Helen Weissenstein. Illustrated by Kurt Werth. New York: David McKay. 152 pp., 36 diags. $2.75.**

THIS mystery story for the ten to fourteen age group is a most novel introduction to chess for young people. Dr. (of law) Weissenstein, herself a player of national prominence, has cleverly woven together the moves of the game and detective adventure. Twins Pete and Paul Dalley teach chess to a bedfast friend who in turn solves an ugly problem for them and takes the first step toward recovery. A good deal of the history and morality of the game is worked into the story. Now is as good a time as any for the reviewer to submit the respectful opinion that children learn chess fast and that any chesser who does not take time to teach his ought to be investigated by the nearest PTA. Parents who find communication with the modern child difficult can shove a copy of **John and the Chess Men** into its little hands and prepare to give Rook odds shortly. Dr. Weissenstein has created a real story, not just a prop for chess instructions but the latter is so artfully introduced that indoctrination should be inevitable. If he cannot learn from this, perhaps he should be abandoned to slap and Old Maid.

chess publication of the USCF) into hosting a small column every issue called "The Reader's Road to Chess." Like all his work, Svendsen's reviews of chess books were witty and popular. Above is an example of one his amusing reviews to give you an idea.

Later Career and Chess in Oregon

During the 1950s Svendsen's career continued to expand as he achieved many accolades, and election to more scholarly councils and organizations. He pursued also his chess and became a class A player, later working with Jerry Spann.

In 1959 Oklahoma suffered a great loss — Kester Svendsen moved to Oregon, where he had agreed to attempt a new chapter in his career as an administrator — head of the University of Oregon English Department.

At Oregon he would be now part of the establishment, what he had long fought against as an independent thinker. And he would be tasked with creating the English Department there virtually from scratch. He had no experience with this. What would they get?

One colleague there said, "What Oregon got, then, was an individualist not of the common mold, one who for a long time had been free of cant, hypocrisy, and pretentiousness of every kind, a fine scholar and great teacher, but an unknown quantity as an administrator. … Popularity with students or colleagues was not his aim. He offended a few self-important people with his deflating wit; he intrigued multitudes with his caustic observations concerning academic smog. Professional jargon, woolly words, and fuzzy ideas were repellent to him. … his regime was Miltonic — magisterial without either false modesty or false pride.

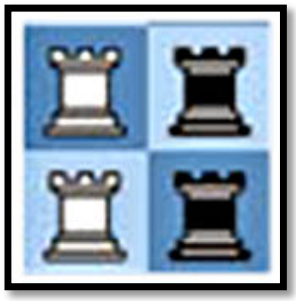
Chess Helps the New Administrator

As the department head, he still taught some classes but most of his time was spent in the politics of budgets, curriculum, student relations, tenure, and teacher salaries.

He soon proved to be highly skilled in these abilities, and he said he credited this as from "the result of years of chess competition in the stiffest circles." According to McNeir, he had, "an ability to think many moves ahead, to anticipate any possible countermove, and to carry in his head a complete diagram of the academic game stood him in good stead. Every aspect of the academic bureaucrat game was computerized in his mind and stored in his phenomenal memory. He was tough on faculty and students, but also kind and generous where needed; firm but flexible." He liked to call his method of administration "benevolent despotism."

1968
Like Jerry Spann, Dr. Kester Svendsen died much too young, and in the same year — 1968 — at only age 56.

In chess he was rated as a player of "Class A." But perhaps in real life he should be considered as one of those rare individuals that is in a class by himself. He shaped the lives of many people, and helped shaped the course of chess in Oklahoma.



## Sep 21

## CENTER-STATE QUADS #2

## Chandler OK

G/45+15; Dual Rated

**4-Player Round Robins** grouped by rating (3 total games with players near your rating in a round-robin.)

Chandler Baseball Camp, 2000 Park Rd., Chandler, OK 74834 (One-hour drive from both OKC and Tulsa). REG.: 8:30am-9:45am. EF: (Entry includes pizza lunch.) (FREE Entry for new members to USChess, or those renewing membership at site after at least 18-month layoff.) EF: $20 cash or check at door, or advance entry by Paypal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich MAXIMUM: 32 Players at this Venue. If more than that preference goes to advance entries, first arrivals. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Rounds: 1-10:00; Lunch-12:15; 2-1:00; 3-3:15. Web: www.ocfchess.org Free coffee and refreshments.

# Steve Wharry ConSat Classic Won by Long

James Long won the second in the experimental series of "ConSat" tournaments (4-SS events of full-length time control with two games played on consecutive Saturdays) with a 4-0 score. The tourney was at the Harvard Avenue Baptist Church in Tulsa, August 17 and 24.

Long (2036) won $200 for 1st in the OPEN Section. The Class A prize of $80 was split between Ryan Amburgy (1995) and David Saylor of Kansas City (1814) both with 3-1 scores. Oscar Wang won the Class B prize of $80 with 2½.

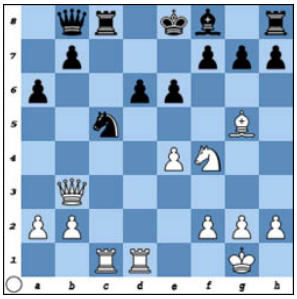
Since there were a lot of Class C players who played up into the Open we added an $80 prize there, which was split by Kelvin Xie, Zade Mahayni, and Jacob Joy (all with 2½).

The RESERVE section was won by juniors **Maxwell Xie** (1477) and **Lafayette Chen** (1337), who each earned $120. The Class C prize was won by Istvan Szabad (1460) who was 3-0 going into the last round but lost to Xie. David Beebe won the Class E/below prize of $100.

The event was organized by Harold Brown and the TD was Tom Braunlich. 36 total players. Two games here, and more next page:

Wang, Oscar (1797)
Dooley, Chris (1850) [B21]
Steve Wharry ConSat Classic (4.2), 24.08.2019 *[TB]*
1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Bc4 d6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.0-0 a6 8.Qe2 Bg4 9.Rd1 Bxf3 10.Qxf3 Ne5 11.Qe2 Nxc4 12.Qxc4 Rc8 13.Qb3 Qc7 14.Bg5 Nd7 15.Nd5 Qb8 16.Rac1 e6 17.Nf4 Nc5 [17...Rxc1 18.Rxc1 Nc5=]

(see diagram)



18.Rxc5! Rxc5 19.Nxe6! Re5 20.Nd8! Rxg5? [20...Qc7 is the only move, after which black is okay but white keeps general compensation for the exchange after 21.Rc1 Rc5 22.Rxc5 dxc5 23.Nxb7] 21.Nxf7 Re5 [21...Be7 22.Nxh8 (threatening Qf7+) Kd7? 23.Qh3+] 22.Nxe5 dxe5 23.Qe6+ 1-0

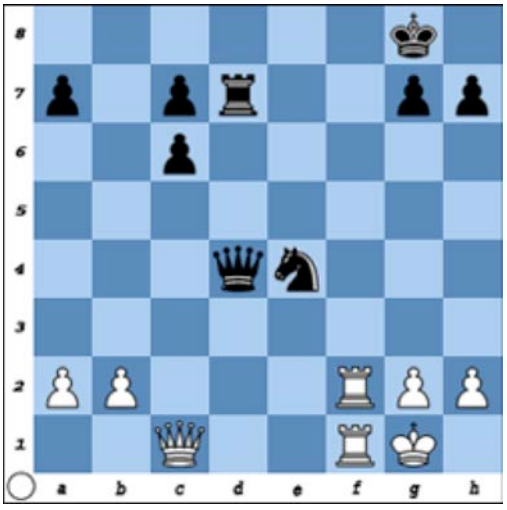
Left: James Long

Below: Last round of the Reserve section. Front: Lafayette Chen (L) vs Levi Applegate; Back: Maxwell Xie vs. Istvan Szabad

Xie, Maxwell (1477)
Szabad, Istvan (1460) [B01]
Steve Wharry ConSat Classic 2019 (4.1), 24.08.2019 *[TB]*
1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qd6 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 a6 6.Be3 b5 7.Bd3 Bb7 8.0-0 e6 9.Re1 Be7 10.Ng5 0-0 11.f3 Nbd7 12.Nce4 Qb4 13.b3 h6 14.Nh3 Nxe4 15.fxe4 Rad8 16.Qg4 Nf6 17.Qf4 c5 18.e5 Nd5 19.Qe4 g6 20.Bxh6 Rfe8 21.c4 Ba8? [21...bxc4 22.bxc4 Nc3 23.Qg4 Rxd4=] 22.Qg4 Kh7 23.Ng5+ Bxg5 24.Bxg5 Qc3 25.Qh3+ Kg8 26.cxd5 Qxd4+ 27.Kh1 Qxd5 28.Bxd8 Qxd8 29.Be4 Bd5 30.Bxd5 exd5 31.Qd3 Re6 32.Rac1 and white won 1-0

Province, Cael (1874)
Wang, Jason (2388)
2019.08.03 2019
Denker Tournament of High School Champions

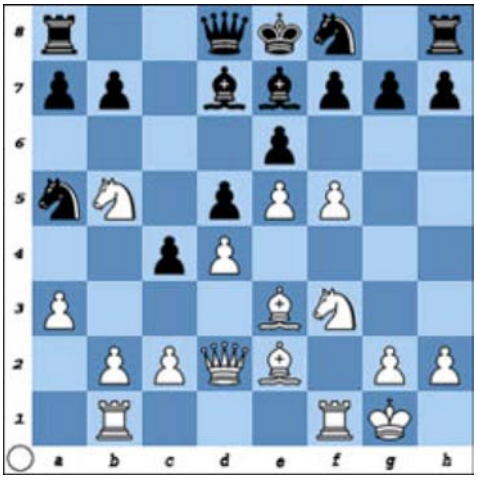
Cael Province is from Kansas and has frequently played in events throughout the OCM region including Oklahoma. Here he catches a 2300 player in a nice trap.
1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 e5 4. Bxc4 exd4 5. Nf3 Bb4+ 6. Bd2 Bxd2+ 7. Qxd2 Nc6 8. exd4 Nf6 9.Ne5 O-O 10. Nxc6 bxc6 11. O-O Qd6 12. f3 Bf5 13. Nc3 Rad8 14. Rad1 Rd7 15. Qg5 Bc2 16. Rd2 Qb4 17. Bxf7+ Rfxf7 18. Rxc2 Qxd4+ 19. Rcf2 Rfe7 20. Qc1 Re3 21. Ne4 Rxe4 22. fxe4 Nxe4
The diagrammed position makes a good puzzle.



**White to move and win, see top of next** column.

23. Qc4+ 1-0

Xie, Maxwell (1477)
Villarreal, Juan (1156) [C11]
Steve Wharry ConSat Classic (2.12), 17.08.2019 *[TB]*
Young Maxwell Xie plays a blistering attacking game with an impressive series of imaginative attacking blows!
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bd3 [8.Qd2] 8...c4 9.Be2 Qb6 10.Rb1 Bb4 11.Qd2 Nf8?! 12.a3 Be7 13.0-0 Na5 14.f5! Qd8 15.Nb5 Bd7



16.f6! gxf6 [16...Bxb5 17.fxe7 Qxe7 *(17...Kxe7 18.Bg5+ f6 19.exf6+ gxf6 20.Bxf6+!)* 18.Qxa5+-] 17.exf6 Bxf6 18.Nd6+ Ke7 19.Ne5! Be8 20.Ndxf7! *Very Nice!*
Bxf7 21.Bg5 Bxg5 22.Qxg5+ Ke8 23.Qg7 Bg6 24.Nxg6 Nxg6 25.Qf7# 1-0

Phillips, Drew
Dooley, Chris (1844) [B35]
Steve Wharry ConSat Classic (2.3), 17.08.2019 *[TB]*
*This game had an exciting rook ending that is instructive to look at in detail! Drew is unrated but played a very strong game.*
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Bg7 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Be3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Qd2 Ng4 9.Nxc6 dxc6 10.Rd1 Qxd2+ 11.Bxd2 b5 12.Be2 Be6 13.Bxg4 Bxg4 14.f3 Be6 15.0-0 a5 16.b3 Rfd8 17.Ne2 b4 18.Be3 Rab8 19.Nd4 Bd7 20.Rd2 c5 21.Ne2 Bb5 22.Rfd1 Rxd2 23.Rxd2 Bxe2 24.Rxe2 Bd4 25.Bxd4

## TOP 25

For SEPTEMBER 2019

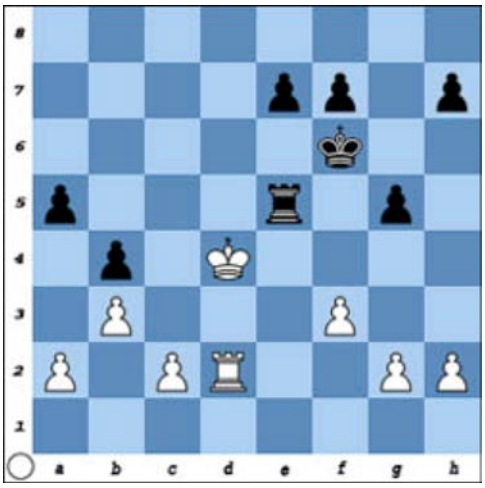
| | Active Oklahoma Players | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Player | This Month | Change | |
| 1 | Advait Patel | 2551 | 0 | |
| 2 | Jeffrey Haskel | 2362 | 0 | |
| 3 | Howard Zhong | 2302 | 0 | |
| 4 | Bart Gibbons | 2217 | 0 | |
| 5 | Mark Hulsey | 2201 | 0 | |
| 6 | Tom Braunlich | 2200 | 0 | |
| 7 | Sergey Galant | 2188 | 0 | |
| 8 | Chibuzo C Ilonze | 2107 | 0 | |
| 9 | Veronika Zilajeva | 2089 | 12 | ▲ |
| 10 | Adonis Turner | 2084 | 0 | ▼ |
| 11 | John Cope | 2084 | 0 | ▼ |
| 12 | Anthony Paolercio | 2080 | 0 | ▼ |
| 13 | Tom Patton | 2077 | 0 | ▼ |
| 14 | Charles D Unruh | 2072 | 0 | |
| 15 | Matt Dalthorp | 2062 | 0 | |
| 16 | David Luscomb | 2045 | 0 | |
| 17 | Michael Nugent | 2042 | 0 | |
| 18 | James Long | 2037 | 0 | |
| 19 | Charles M Unruh | 2033 | 0 | |
| 20 | Chuck Johnson | 2010 | 0 | |
| 21 | Jeff Colbert | 2008 | 0 | |
| 22 | Ryan Amburgy | 2006 | 11 | |
| 23 | Logan Zachare | 1977 | 0 | |
| 24 | Stephen Gehly | 1958 | 0 | |
| 25 | Joe Dean Veal | 1954 | 0 | |

## Player of the Month

*JOHN TAYLOR*

Veteran John Taylor had a fine 3-1 result in the ConSat event, beating three talented juniors. Sometimes experience triumphs!

[25.Kf2=] 25...cxd4 26.e5! [26.Rd2 e5] 26...Rc8 27.Rd2 Kg7 28.Kf2 g5 29.Ke2 Rc5 30.Kd3 Rxe5 31.Kxd4 Kf6



An instructive unbalanced rook ending has been reached. White has the chance to get a quick outside passed pawn. Black has a potential pawn avalanche and chances of penetrating with his king via e3 if White's king leaves the center. Worthy of study…

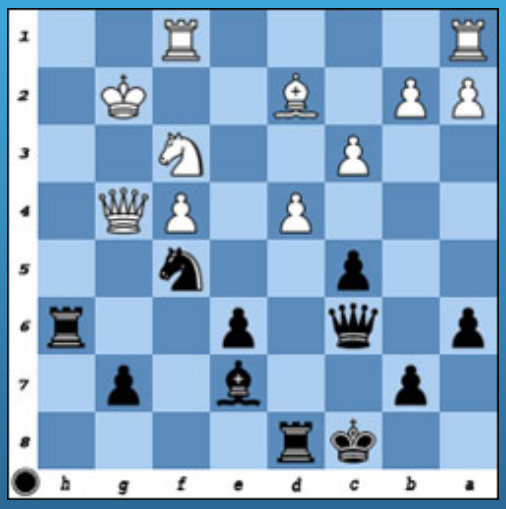
32.c4 bxc3 33.Kxc3 Ke6 34.b4 f5 35.bxa5 Rxa5 36.Kb4 Ra8 37.a4 Rb8+ 38.Kc5 Rb1 39.Ra2

Rooks belong behind passed pawns yes, but for the moment white's is well placed cutting off black's king and protecting his own pawns, while his king can escort the pawn most of the way. I think white could save a few crucial tempos by 39.a5 Some example lines which you can compare to the game: 39...Ra1 40.Kb6 Rb1+ *(40...Ke5 41.Rb2 Kd4 42.Rb4+ Ke3 43.Rb5* successfully holds back black's pawn avalanche. *43...e6 44.a6 Kf2 45.a7 Rxa7 46.Kxa7 Kxg2 47.Kb6 Kxf3 48.Kc5 e5 49.Kd6)* 41.Ka7 Ke5 *(41...h5 42.a6 g4 43.Ka8 f4 44.a7 g3 45.h4 Rb3 46.Rd8 Rb2 47.Rb8 Rxg2 48.Kb7 Ra2 49.a8Q Rxa8 50.Rxa8 g2 51.Rg8)* 42.a6 Kf4 43.Rd4+ Ke3 44.Rd7 e5 45.Rb7 Ra1 46.Kb6 Kf2 47.a7 Kxg2 48.Re7 Kxf3 49.Rxe5 Rxa7 50.Kxa7 f4 51.Rxg5 Ke2 52.Rh5 f3 53.Rxh7 f2 54.Rf7]

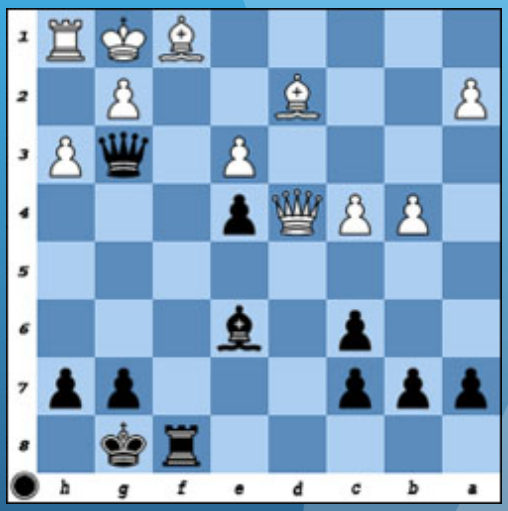
39...Rc1+ 40.Kb6 Rb1+ 41.Kc7 Rc1+ 42.Kb7 Rb1+ 43.Kc6 Rc1+ 44.Kb5 Rb1+ 45.Kc4 Rc1+ 46.Kb3 Rb1+ 47.Rb2 Ra1 48.Kb4 Kd5! 49.Kb5 [49.Rd2+ Kc6=] 49...Kd4 50.Rb4+ [50.a5 e5 again preparing

# PUZZLES

Answers Next Page

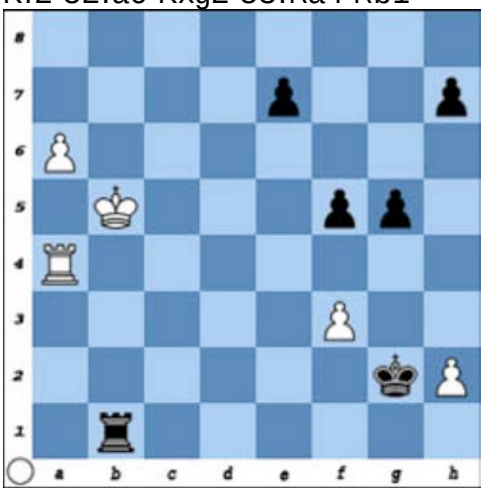


Black to move and win. (Easy)



Black to move and win. (Medium)

counterplay. 51.a6 e4 52.fxe4 fxe4 53.Rb4+ Kd3 54.Ra4 Rxa4 55.Kxa4 e3 56.a7 e2 57.a8Q e1Q 58.Qd5+ Kc2=] 50...Ke3 51.a5 Kf2 52.a6 Kxg2 53.Ra4 Rb1+



54.Ka5?

[This takes an extra tempo compared to 54.Kc6 Rb8 55.a7 Ra8 56.Kb7 Rxa7+ 57.Rxa7 Kxf3 In the game we have this same position except black's pawn is already on e5! Therefore it should be winning for white.]

54...Rb8 55.a7 Ra8 56.Kb6 Kxf3 57.Kb7 Rxa7+ 58.Rxa7 e5 59.Kc6?

[59.Ra5 f4 *(59...e4 60.Rxf5+ Kg4 61.Re5 Kf4 62.Re7 e3 63.Kc6 Kf3 64.Rxh7 e2 65.Re7 Kf2 66.Kd5 g4 67.Kd4 e1Q 68.Rxe1 Kxe1 69.Ke3 Kf1 70.Kf4 Kg2 71.Kxg4 Kxh2=)* 60.Rxe5 g4 61.Kc6 g3 62.hxg3 fxg3 63.Kd5 g2 64.Rg5 Kf2 65.Ke4 g1Q 66.Rxg1 Kxg1 67.Kf5=]

59...e4 60.Kd5?

[I thought nothing of this move until I checked the analysis with my computer. Here it gives a better alternative for White that apparently is a mind-boggling forced draw that no human would think of: 60.h4! gxh4 61.Rf7 f4 62.Kd5 e3 *(62...h3 63.Ke5 h2 64.Rxh7 e3 65.Rxh2 Kg3 66.Rh1 f3 67.Ke4 Kg2 68.Kxe3 Kxh1 69.Kxf3)* 63.Ke5 e2 64.Rxf4+ Kg3 65.Re4 Kf2 66.Rf4+ Kg3 67.Re4=; OR 60.h4 g4 61.Rxh7 g3 62.h5 g2 63.Rg7 e3 64.h6 e2 65.h7 e1Q 66.h8Q g1Q 67.Qh3+ Kf4 68.Qh6+ with perpetual check!]

60...h5?

Now it is black who loses a tempo. Instead 60...e3! 61.Ke5 e2 62.Ra1 f4 63.Kf5 Ke3 64.Kxg5 f3 65.Ra3+ Kf2 66.Kf4 e1Q 67.Rxf3+ Kg2 68.Rg3+ Kxh2 wins].

Continued on page 17

# Answers to the Puzzles

(1) From Hoschall – Getz, 2019 U.S. Senior Tournament of Champions.
Black played 1. … Rg6! Winning the Queen for a Rook, since 2. Qxg6 allows the fork 2… Nh4+

(2) From Duda – Nepomniachtchi, 2019
Black is down a piece, but white's rook is out of play and awkwardly placed.
Black played 1. … Qf2+ 2. Kh2, Rf3! and white is helpless against the threat of 2…Rxh3 mate. White's rook on h1 is actually a hindrance.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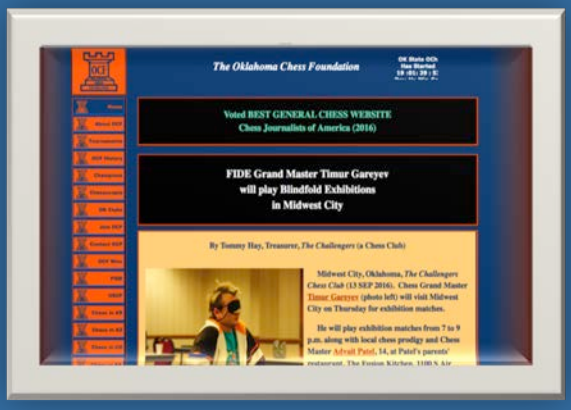
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will play Blindfold Exhibitions
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### Stonehocker Wins Lawton Title

Alan Tubbs reports: Herb "Shane" Stonehocker (1698) won the 2019 Lawton City Championship with a 3-0 score. He beat: Andrew Browne (1950), Mike Tubbs (1800), and John Lee (1450). The tournament was unrated because some of us think the USCF only cater to juniors now. TD was Mike Tubbs.

### 2019 Texas Women's Championship

This year's Texas Women's Championship was held at the North Richland Hills Library (north Dallas), August 17-18. Alexey Root (2000) and Nicole Niemi (1808) tied for 1st place with 3½/4 out of a field of 16 women. Niemi won the title on tiebreaks.

The organizer was Jim Hollingsworth, with TDs Louis Reed and Nikolaus Garcia. See group photo next column. See CLO story for more details: https://bit.ly/2ziFNOc

Players in the 2019 Texas Women's Championship

### Hot Wheels Checkmate

Chris Walker has completed his collection of the *Hot Wheels® Checkmate Collection* of cars — each of which has a chess theme paint job on the different classic models to represent King, Queen, Rook, etc,,

plus white and black versions to form a chess set.

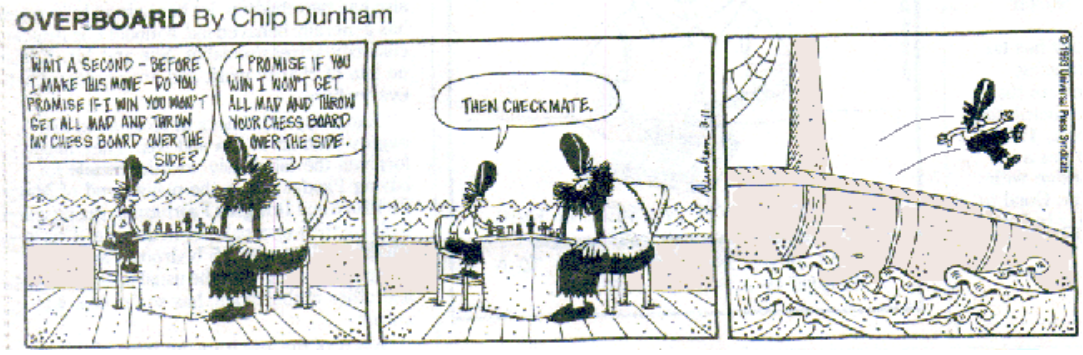
See the September 2018 issue of OCM for the article that introduced this collection in detail.

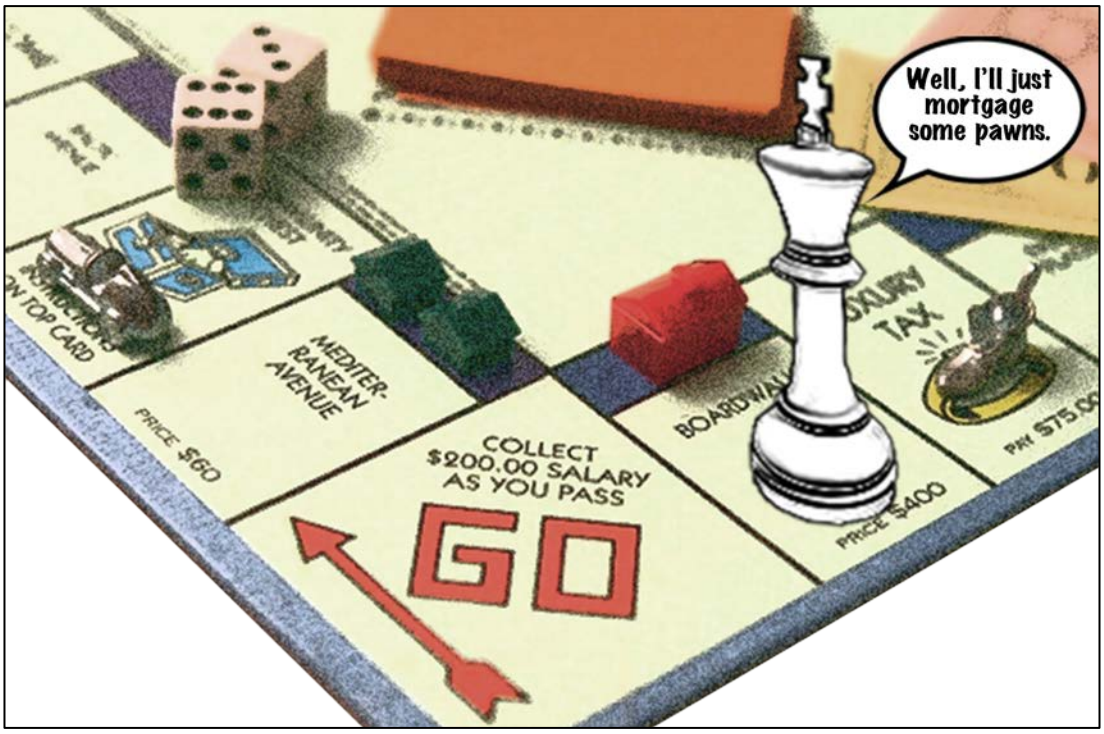
## PHILLIPS WINS ARKANSAS CHAMPIONSHIP

Newly arrived David Phillips (2066) won the 2019 Arkansas State Championship held July 13-14 in Conway, Arkansas. Phillips is a long-time Texican from the North Dallas area who recently moved to Fayetteville, and who has frequently played in Oklahoma and other states in the region. He scored 4-1, defeating Tony Davis (2118) in the last round, and ahead of NM Bill Orton who withdrew in round 4. 12 players.

Jakob Elser (1136) was the surprise winner of the 35-player U1600 Reserve section, with 4½ points. He gained over 300 rating points for this event!

Sponsored by the Urban Knights Chess Club, the event was directed by Larry H Weston.


OVERBOARD By Chip Dunham
WAIT A SECOND - BEFORE I MAKE THIS MOVE - DO YOU PROMISE IF I WIN YOU WON'T GET ALL MAD AND THROW MY CHESS BOARD OVER THE SIDE?
I PROMISE IF YOU WIN I WON'T GET ALL MAD AND THROW YOUR CHESS BOARD OVER THE SIDE.
THEN CHECKMATE.



Saylor, David (1814)
Phillips, David (2064) [E10]
Steve Wharry ConSat Classic (2.1), 17.08.2019
*[TB]*
*Saylor is from Kansas City, and Phillips is a new resident of Fayetteville, Arkansas, where he the previous month won the state championship. In this game however, Phillips takes some positional risks trying to liven up the game, only to regret it as Saylor creates a bind and proceeds to squeeze it like Karpov was famous for.*

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.h3!?
Much less common than 6. Nc3, but it has a better win rate in the database... especially when black tries to take advantage of the slowness of the move with immediate queenside activity.

6...b5!?

[This immediate bid for queenside space is logical but overly aggressive. It's better to proceed normally with 6...g6 and let the move order transpose into normal Benoni lines.]

7.e4 Nxe4
[Trading a center pawn for a wing pawn seems logical for black, but has its problems, including loss of time. Yet, what else can black do? One master game here went: 7...a6 8.a4 and white was already better. Black tried to gambit it pawn but it didn't work: 8...Nxe4 9.axb5 Be7 10.Qa4 Nf6 11.bxa6+ Nbd7 12.Nc3 0-0 13.Be3 Nb6 14.Qd1 Bf5 15.Bb5 Ne4 16.Nxe4 Bxe4 17.Bc6 Ra7 18.0-0 Bf6 19.Qb3 Nd7 20.Nd2 Bf5 21.Nc4 Qc7 22.Bf4 Ne5 23.Nxe5 dxe5 24.Be3 Rb8 25.Qc3 Qc8 26.Bb7 Raxb7 27.axb7 Qxb7 28.Qxc5 Qxb2 29.Qc6 1-0 Houska (2392)-Rudd (2334)/Hinckley Island 2009]

8.Bxb5+ Bd7 [8...Nd7 9.Qe2 Qe7 10.0-0 is virtually winning, illustrating black's development problems.] 9.Bxd7+

[9.Bd3 Nf6 10.0-0 is probably even stronger for white, but the bishop exchange, although it helps black development problems, weakens his light squares significantly.]

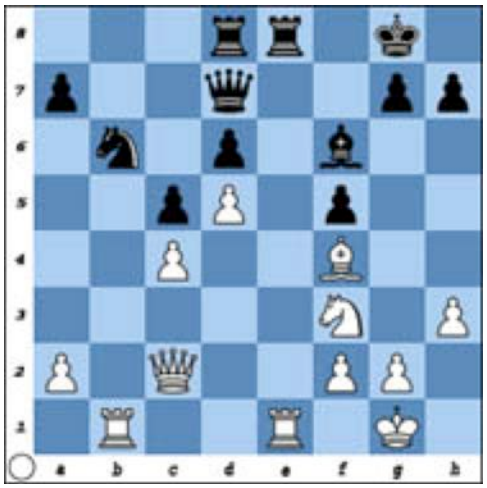
9...Nxd7 10.0-0 Be7 11.Qa4! f5?

The dilemma of the higher-rated player. The best thing for black here objectively is to retreat the attacked knight, accept a passive but defensible position in which he is worse, and admit his whole idea with ...b5 was too ambitious. But black would then have his work cut out for him just to equalize the position, and he needs a win against the lower-rated player. So, he tries an extremely risky move instead. The ...f5 move saves a development tempo and hopes to "mix it up". But now the e6 square is a glaring weakness in black's position. Saylor shows us very nicely how to exploit it.

12.Nc3

Development with tempo. Black will not be able to keep his advanced N anyway. So all that his ...f5 move has really bought him is one development tempo. Not a good bargain!

12...Nxc3 13.bxc3 0-0 14.Bf4 Nb6 15.Qc2 Qd7 [15...Nxd5?? 16.Qb3] 16.c4 Bf6 17.Rab1 Rad8 18.Rfe1 Rfe8



Both sides have completed their development logically, and now it is the time for white to come up with a strong middlegame plan.

It boils down to this... how can white occupy e6 with either a knight or rook? When I was young I was a big admirer of Karpov, the then world champion, who would win positions like this were the opponent has just one weak square, and make it look easy. Saylor makes a pretty good stab at doing the same!

19.Bg5!

A fine way to start. White exchanges off black's only active piece, and perhaps more importantly clears the way for his N to come thru g5 to e6 someday.

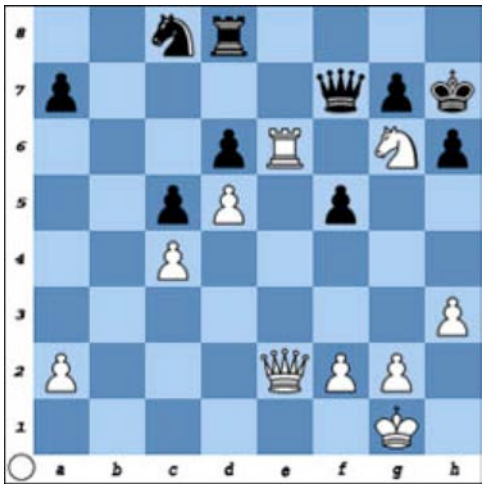
19...Rf8

[Normally a strong player in such a position will seek to sacrifice something in order to get some counterplay rather than play purely defensively. No doubt Phillips considered therefore the more active move 19...Qf7 which tempts white into the line 20.Qxf5 Nxc4 21.Re6 Rxe6 22.dxe6 Qg6 which is fine for black and what he is hoping for. The problem that must have annoyed Phillips however is that after 19...Qf7 white can simply play 20.a4 threatening to chase the knight back with a4-a5, after which the f5 pawn will fall for nothing. Still, I think black could in that case try 20...h6 21.Be3 Qd7 22.a5 Na8!? At least in this line white does not easily get into e6, and black has some long-term ideas to play for like N-c7-a6-b4. True, this line weakens black's light squares even further; but I think black's chances to survive are improved.]

20.Re6 Bxg5 21.Nxg5 h6 22.Nf3 Rde8 23.Rbe1 Rxe6 24.Rxe6 Nc8?!

[If 24...Re8 25.Qxf5 Nxc4 26.Qe4! wins nicely.; But 24...Na8 looks like black's last chance to go for some counterplay, intending to challenge white's rook with ...Nc7. 25.Qe2 Nc7 26.Re7 Qd8 27.Nh4 Rf6 and although white is still much better, at least black has kept the N out of g6 and alleviated pressure on the d6 pawn. In the game white is able to complete his "bind" on black's position, after which black is lost.]

25.Nh4! Qf7 26.Ng6 Rd8 27.Qe2 Kh7



Here white's bind is complete and Karpov or Carlsen might take the time to push an h-pawn up to h5, or the a-pawn to a5, etc. showing patience before taking further action. But Saylor prefers to act immediately.

28.Ne7 Nb6

[Black could jettison a pawn here for some freedom, although it seems pretty hopeless as well. 28...Nxe7 29.Rxe7 Qf6 30.Rxa7 Rb8 etc. In the game Black continues to play solid under the theory that the lower-rated player is supposed to do his duty and find a way to screw up the game somehow!]

29.Qd3 Rf8 30.Nc6?

Saylor gives black the chance he is looking for! This move changes plans away from exploiting the light squares to penetration on the 7th rank and winning a pawn. But doing so releases briefly the bind and would have allowed a counter-chance. [Instead 30.g4! still going after those weak light squares, was thematic and winning, in view of the tactic: 30...Re8 *(30...Nc8 31.Nxf5 g6 32.Qe3!)* 31.gxf5 Rxe7 32.f6+!]

30...Re8 31.Qe2 Rf8 32.Re7?

[32.Rxd6 wins.]

32...Qf6 33.Rxa7 Qh4?

Black had one subtle chance to for the first time get some counterplay going with 33...Qc3!

The point is that now if white plays to

protect his c-pawn (as happens later in the game), with 34.Na5 then black would have a shot:

*(Analysis Diagram)*

34... Re8!! and suddenly the rook comes to life because it can't be taken 35.Qxe8 Qc1+ 36.Kh2 Qf4+ 37.g3 Qxf2+ 38.Kh1 Qf1+ and draw by repetition.

And if white doesn't take the offered rook his pieces get sidelined while black's are very active with full compensation for the pawn.; After 33...Qc3 the reply 34.Qe7 is also met by the drawing idea 34...Qc1+. Therefore after 33...Qc3 if white wants to continue playing for a win he must agree to the loss of his c-pawn and try something like 34.a4 Nxc4 35.a5 and claim his passed pawn is dangerous. But clearly black here would have chances of his own and anything could have happened.

34.Na5 Qf6 35.Rb7 Nc8 36.Nc6 Qc3 37.Rb8 Qf6 38.Qe6!

A nice tactical solution to forcing the win! 38...Qxe6 [38...Qc3 39.g3!] 39.dxe6 White now threatens Ne7.

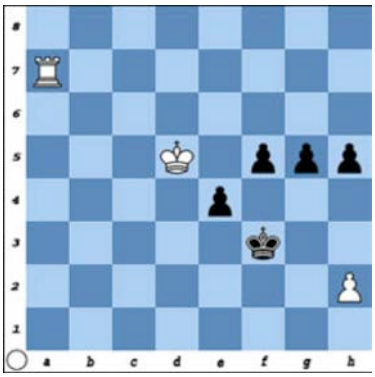
39...Re8 40.e7! Nxe7

[In desperation, black gives up the exchange, but there is nothing better. At first glance it looks like 40...Kg6 would be good, planning to round up the advanced pawn with ...Kf7. But both players saw the nice refutation 41.Rxc8! Rxc8 42.Nd8 and the pawn queens next move.]

41.Rxe8 Nxc6 42.Re6 Na5 43.Rxd6

1-0

## *GAMES FROM RECENT EVENTS Continued...*



61.Ke5!?

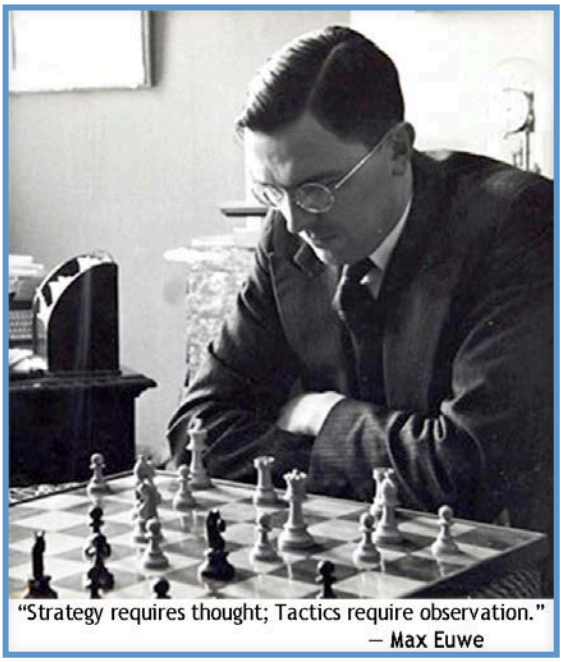
[This nearly loses! But not quite.

I think it would be more natural for the king to help restrain black's e-pawn, while letting the white Rook raid from behind, like this: 61.Kd4 e3 62.Ra5 f4 63.Kd3 and the white rook will take one of black's pawns on the 5th rank and then go to the e-file to prevent black from going much further, i.e. 63...Kf2 *(63...g4 64.Rxh5 Kf2 65.Re5=)* 64.Rxg5 e2 65.Re5 f3 66.Kd2=]

61...f4 62.Kf5 g4 63.Kg5 g3 64.hxg3 Kxg3

[After the game it was suggested that 64...fxg3 was winning. But white has a subtle defense! 65.Rf7+ Ke3 66.Kxh5 g2 67.Rg7 Kf2 68.Kh4! g1Q *(68...e3 69.Rf7+ Ke2 70.Rg7 Kf2 71.Rf7+=)* 69.Rxg1 Kxg1 70.Kg3!=]

65.Ra4 f3 66.Rxe4 f2 67.Rf4 **½ - ½**



# UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

## Sep 21 — CENTER-STATE QUADS #2 — Chandler OK

G/45+15; Dual Rated 4-RR grouped by rating (3 total games with players near your rating in a round-robin.) Chandler Baseball Camp, 2000 Park Rd., Chandler, OK 74834 (One-hour drive from both OKC and Tulsa). REG.: 8:30am-9:45am. EF: (Entry includes pizza lunch.) (FREE Entry for new members to USChess, or those renewing membership at site after at least 18-month layoff.) EF: $20 cash or check at door, or advance entry by Paypal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich MAXIMUM: 32 Players at this Venue. If more than that preference goes to advance entries, first arrivals. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Rounds: 1-10:00; Lunch-12:15; 2-1:00; 3-3:15. Web: www.ocfchess.org Free coffee and refreshments.

## Sep 28-29 — 2019 SPRINGFIELD OPEN — Springfield MO

5-SS, G/90,+30. Plaster Student Union Ballroom (3rd floor), 1110 E. Madison St., Springfield, MO 65897. One Open Section. Prizes: $160, $125, U1600 $100, U1400 $75, U1200 $50. 5.0 Bonus: $40. Prizes: b/25 non-scholastic entries. EF: $30 by 9/27, $40 at door. Scholastic (rating only) $15 by 9/27, $25 at door. Email entry accepted for lower rate. MCA membership required, OSA. Reg.: 8-9:30. Rounds: Sat 10, 2:30, 7; Sun 10:00, 2:30. Byes: One ½-pt bye if requested before round 3. Ent: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org with cash on-site or mailed to Joplin Chess Club, 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, MO 64804. Checks payable to Martin Stahl. **Parking:** See www.missouristate.edu/visitors/parking.htm or contact TD. Info: joplinchess.org, martin.stahl@joplinchess.org, 417-483-1554.

## Oct 12 — NATIONAL CHESS DAY SPECIAL! — Tulsa OK

Rated chess mixed with unrated Fischer-Random (F/R) in both "Rapid" and "Blitz" formats! **12-SS** — 4 Rapid games (G/25+10) of 2 Chess and 2 F/R, plus 4 rounds of Blitz Chess and 4 rounds of Blitz F/R (G/5+2). Scoring is 2 points per rapid game, and 1 per blitz game, for a maximum of 16 points. Swiss pairings derived from players' combined scores. **More details:** www.ocfchess.org **Site:** Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. **PRIZES:** $100 each to top scorer in each class: Expert/Above, A, B, C, D, E/below. **Special Prizes: Top Senior** (50+) Over 1600: $75, **Top Senior** Under 1600: $75. Only rounds of standard chess are USCF rated. **EF:** Entry includes pizza lunch. (FREE Entry for new members to USChess, or those renewing membership at site after at least 18-month layoff.) EF **$20** cash or check at door, or advance entry by Paypal: www.paypal.me/Braunlich **Inquiries:** tom.braunlich@cox.net **Web:** www.ocfchess.org **Free coffee and refreshments.**

## Nov 9-10 — OKLAHOMA CITY OPEN — OKC, OK

5-SS, G/90;+30. Site: Residence Inn OKC, (North-Quail Springs) 1-405-286-1020. 13900 McAuley Blvd., OKC (2 miles West of Quail Springs Mall on Memorial Rd.) HR- $99 chess rate for a suite -- Ask for "US Chess" rate. EF: $40 if mailed by Nov. 6, $50 thereafter, free for Masters (deducted from prizes). Two Sections: Open and U1600. Prizes: $$2,200 all guaranteed. Open: $$500-250, X 200, A 200, B 200. Reserve: $$200-100, D 200, E 200, Below 1000 $100. Unr $50. Registration: 9-9:45 a.m. Sat. Nov. 9. Byes: Only one 1/2-pt bye for Rds 1-4. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries: Jim Berry, PO Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076. **Questions:** Jaberrycg@aol.com. **Web:** www.ocfchess.org.

## Dec 28 — 29th Annual HOLIDAY OPEN — Tulsa OK

4-SS, G/50+15 spm. (Dual rated). Harvard Avenue Baptist Church, 3235 E. 17th St. (17th & Harvard), Tulsa, OK. Cash Prizes $200-1st(G), plus other cash prizes per entries. Free coffee and refreshments. REG.: 9-9:45 AM. RDS.: 10-12:30-3-5:30 PM. EF: $20 cash or check at door. BYES: One ½-point bye Rds. 1, 2 or 3. LS W. Advance Entries and Information: Jim Berry, P O Box 351, Stillwater, OK 74076. JABerrycg@aol.com.

*By IM John Donaldson*

REVIEW:

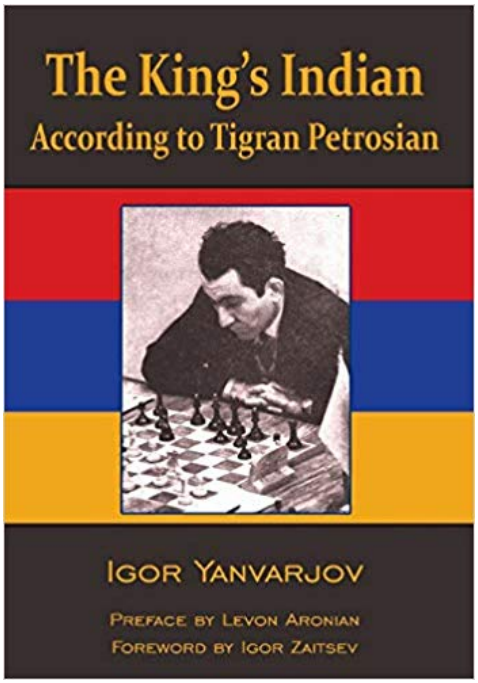
# *The King's Indian According to Petrosian*

by Igor Yanvarjov
(424 pages, $34.95, paperback)

This is at first glance a strange subject for a book. After all, who wants an opening work on a player who died 35 years ago? The answer is that this book concerns the middlegame and not the opening and that Petrosian was not just anyone, but one of the most profound positional players of all time.

International Master Igor Yanvarjov has gathered together 278 games of the 9th World Champion (1963-1969) in which he faces the King's Indian or plays it himself and another dozen or so in which the King's Indian Reversed is the subject. The games are arranged both by opening variation and theme, but always with an emphasis on typical middle game themes – something that doesn't have a sell date like opening theory.

Prior to reading this book, this reviewer was aware Petrosian had a phenomenal record against the King's Indian, but always assumed that it was with the system which bears his name (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.d5). Not so. He had an almost perfect record with the Sämisch variation, though to be fair he scored with his pet line as did the late Igor Ivanov.




Petrosian didn't often play the K.I.D., but when the occasion required him to play hard with Black for a win, he would adopt his favorite cross between the King's Indian/ Czech Benoni hybrid (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 g6 4. Nc3 Bg7 5.e4 d6 6.Nf3 0-0 7.Be2 e5), a line in which he won many critical games.

There is no shortage of good books on Petrosian: the two-volume work of his games by Shekhtman, the anthology *Python Strategy*, *Petrosian Move by Move* by Engqvist, *Tigran Petrosian: His life and Games* by Vasiliev and even the small book *Petrosian's Legacy* based on his writings are all first-rate, but the present work offers something new. Sure, there is some overlap with earlier works. Notes from the Piatigorsky Tournaments books have been seen before as has the article on how the Petrosian system in the K.I.D. came to be - seemingly published in every book in English on Petrosian after it first appeared in *How to Open a Chess Games (*it's still gold!) -, but everywhere the hand of the author is felt as he updates and adds new insights.

Those who think today's top ten players are in a completely different league than the World Champions of the past, that they play much more sharply and with greater imagination, should check out the 12th game of the 1966 match between Petrosian and Spassky which is brilliantly annotated in *The King's Indian According to Petrosian.*

Anyone who wants to improve their understanding of the King's Indian Defense, or their positional play in general, should get this book.

Recommended